(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has come to their knowledge that the loss of salt due to the last year's floods was, though occasioned by the cyclone, helped by the narrowness of the Pazhayar river near the salt pans?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Mr. Bastow's proposal involved the acquisition of portions of existing salt factories at a prohibitive cost. Mr. Bastow did not give hydraulic particulars on which his opinion was based. So Mr. Jacob, his successor, who re-examined the question, suggested an alternative scheme. His proposal was for dismantling the mission dam in the Pazhayar and the draining and alignment of the deep water channel. Government adopted this alternative.

(*c*) Government have no such information.

Statement of Lands assigned to Depressed Classes.

242. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a talukwar statement of the lands already assigned to the depressed classes at concessional rates?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement* furnishing the information for three years from 1096 M. E. is laid on the table.

Qualification for Assistant Sanitary Officers.

243. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, at the time of the formation of the Sanitary Department and for some time thereafter, there was any understanding that Assistant Sanitary Officers should have passed some medical test?

(*b*) When was this rule dispensed with?

(*c*) What were the reasons for its discontinuance?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The post of Assistant Sanitary Officers was created in 1902, *i. e.*, nearly seven years after the formation of the Sanitary Department. The Hospital Assistants' Examination was then prescribed as the medical qualification for the post.

(*b*) This rule was modified in 1905 when the Certificated Sanitary Inspectors' Test was prescribed as an alternative qualification.

(*c*) Because the work of itinerant medical relief which had been entrusted to the Sanitary Department was discontinued in 1905.

Kudivila for Royal Trees on Ayacut Lands.

244. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the year up to which *kudivila* has been paid for the royal trees cut and removed through the Forest Department from *ayacut* lands?

* *Vide* appendix I—page 915.

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